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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,279	08/13/2001	Cecil Earl Williams JR.	476901	4829

7590 09/27/2002

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EXAMINER

TRIEU, VAN THANH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2632

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/682,279

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, CECIL EARL

Examiner

Van T Trieu

Art Unit

2632

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DTAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Tseng** [US 5,615,945 in view of **Kim** [US 5,938,770].

Regarding claim 4, **Tseng** discloses a light device for use with a computer including an elongated, hollow, flexible neck 1 (flexible, tubular and stabilizing agent), a plug 3 fastened to the flexible neck at one end for connection to an electrical socket 4 on the computer via a plurality of contact pins 32 and a lamp assembly 2 fastened to the flexible neck 1 at an opposite end and connected to the plug by electrical wires 33, see Figs. 2-4, col. 1, lines 47-64, col. 2, lines 25-67 and col. 3, lines 1-3. But **Tseng** silence about the universal serial bus (USB) electronically coupled to first end of the elongate, standard USB wire. However, **Tseng** teaches that the plug 3 is fasten to the electric socket 4 on the computer, which is used by the keyboard or interface card of the computer, see Figs. 3 and 4, col. **Kim** discloses a keyboard 12, other peripheral devices such as a printer 14, a light pen 52, a mouse 53, a plotter, a speaker 72 and/or a microphone 84 are connected to a personal computer 10. The downstream ports DP4 and DP5 of the keyboard 12 are respectively connected to USB device connectors DC4

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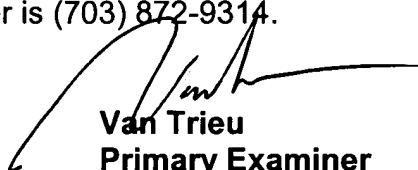
and DC5 of the light pen 52 and mouse 53, see Figs. 1, 5-11 and 13, col. 4, lines 10-20, col. 6, lines 37-67 and col. 7, lines 13-24. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the USB ports/connectors of **Kim** for the plug and socket of **Tseng** for connecting the flexible light device to the personal computer, since the computer is not provided with a plug and a play function, it is difficult for a user to connect the peripheral devices to the computer, because the peripheral devices such as the keyboard, monitor, printer, light pen, mouse, plotter are complicated to connect the personal computer. Thus, a USB system has been developed to make it easier and quicker for the user to connect the peripheral devices to the computer, see **Kim**, col. 1, lines 29-37, 50-56 and col. 4, lines 10-20.

### ***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to primary examiner **Van Trieu** whose telephone number is (703) 308-5220. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. **Jeffery Hofsass** can be reached on (703) 305-4717.

The office facsimile number is (703) 872-9314.



**Van Trieu**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Date: 9/26/02**